

Claims:

1. A method of utilizing a battery powered system, the system comprising a portable utilization device having a screen and a battery pack, the method comprising:

generating, using a first processor, battery data;  
communicating, by the first processor via a two-way communication link, the battery data to a second processor; and  
causing, by the second processor, the display on the screen of information relating to the battery data.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the information is a visual indication of available battery capacity.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the information is a fuel gauge.

4. The method of claim 1 further comprising transmitting, using the second processor, a command to the first processor requesting the battery data.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein the portable utilization device has a user interface, and further comprising accepting, via the user interface, an input initiating the step of transmitting.

6. The method of claim 1 further comprising transmitting, using the second processor, a command to the first processor requesting that a battery parameter be set at a specified value.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein the portable utilization device has a user interface, and further comprising accepting, via the user interface, an input initiating the step of transmitting.

8. The method of claim 1 further comprising transmitting by the first processor, an interrupt message to the second processor for requesting service.

9. The method of claim 1 further comprising transmitting, by the first processor, an interrupt message to the second processor to advise of a selected battery related condition.

10. The method of claim 1 further comprising transmitting, by the second processor, a command to the first processor causing the first processor to effect a selected action.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the portable utilization device has a user interface, and further comprising accepting, via the user interface, an input initiating the step of transmitting.

12. The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
transmitting, by the second processor, a command to the first processor requesting that an alert point be set with respect to a battery related condition; and  
transmitting, by the first processor, a message to the second processor signaling that the alert point has been reached.

13. A method of utilizing a portable battery powered system, the system comprising a portable utilization device and a battery pack, the method comprising:

measuring battery parameter data;  
retrieving stored battery information from an electronic memory device;  
generating, by a first processor, battery capacity data using the measured battery parameter data and the retrieved battery information;

communicating, by the first processor and via a two-way communication link, the battery capacity data to a second processor; and

causing, by the second processor, the display on a screen of information relating to the battery capacity data.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the information is a visual indication of available battery capacity.

15. The method of claims 13 wherein the information is a fuel gauge.

16. The method of claim 13 further comprising transmitting, by the second processor, a command to the first processor requesting the battery capacity data.

17. The method of claim 16 further comprising accepting, via a user interface, an input initiating the step of transmitting.

18. The method of claim 13 further comprising transmitting, by the first processor, an interrupt message to the second processor to advise of a selected battery related condition.

19. The method of claim 13 further comprising transmitting, by the second processor, a command to the first processor to effect a selected action.

20. The method of claim 19 further comprising accepting, via a user interface, an input initiating the step of transmitting.

21. The method of claim 13 further comprising transmitting, by the first processor, an interrupt message to the second processor for requesting service.

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22. The method of claim 13 comprising;

transmitting, by the second processor, a command to the first processor requesting that an alert point be set with respect to a battery related condition;

transmitting, by the first processor, a message to the second processor signaling that the alert point has been reached.

23. A method of utilizing a battery powered system, the system comprising a first processor, a second processor, and a two-way communication link coupling the first and second processors, the method comprising;

determining, using the first processor, the existence of a preselected battery condition;

communicating, by the first processor, a message via the two-way communication link to the second processor signaling the existence of the preselected battery condition; and

causing, by the second processor, the display of information indicating to a user the existence of the preselected battery condition.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein the portable utilization device comprises a screen, and wherein the display of the information occurs on the screen.

25. The method of claim 23 wherein the preselected battery condition is a low battery voltage condition.

26. The method of claim 23 wherein the preselected battery condition is a low battery capacity condition.